AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend paragraph [0015] as follows:

[0015] Fig. 3 shows a detail view of one end of the view of Fig. 2 taken along line 3-3 of Fig. 2.

Amend paragraph [0024] as follows:

[0024] It should also be noted that the construction of the present shaft 10, as illustrated in Fig. 5, provides improved load transfer characteristics for transferring torque loads between the opposing end pieces 14, 16. Specifically, multiple load paths are defined between the end pieces 14, 16. A first load path comprises the connection 44 between the composite material 12 and the end pieces 14, 16, which is facilitated by the knurled surfaces 21, 23 to form a rigid connection after the wet or uncured composite material is deposited within the grooves of the knurled surfaces 21, 23 and cured, locking the hardened composite material 18 to the end pieces 14, 16. A second load path is defined by the connection 46 between the end pieces 14, 16 and the inner tube member 12, at the interface portions 28, 30. A third load path is provided from the inner tube 12 to the composite material 18 via an adhesion layer 48 between the entire exterior surface of the inner tube member and the composite material. It should be noted that the formation of these multiple paths takes place during the operation of forming the tubular composite portion 18 of the shaft, resulting in the application of the composite material to the inner tube member 12 and to the knurled portions of the end pieces 14, 16, such that a further or secondary operation is

not required to create a consistent and durable hybrid structure for transfer of torque loads between the end pieces 14, 16.